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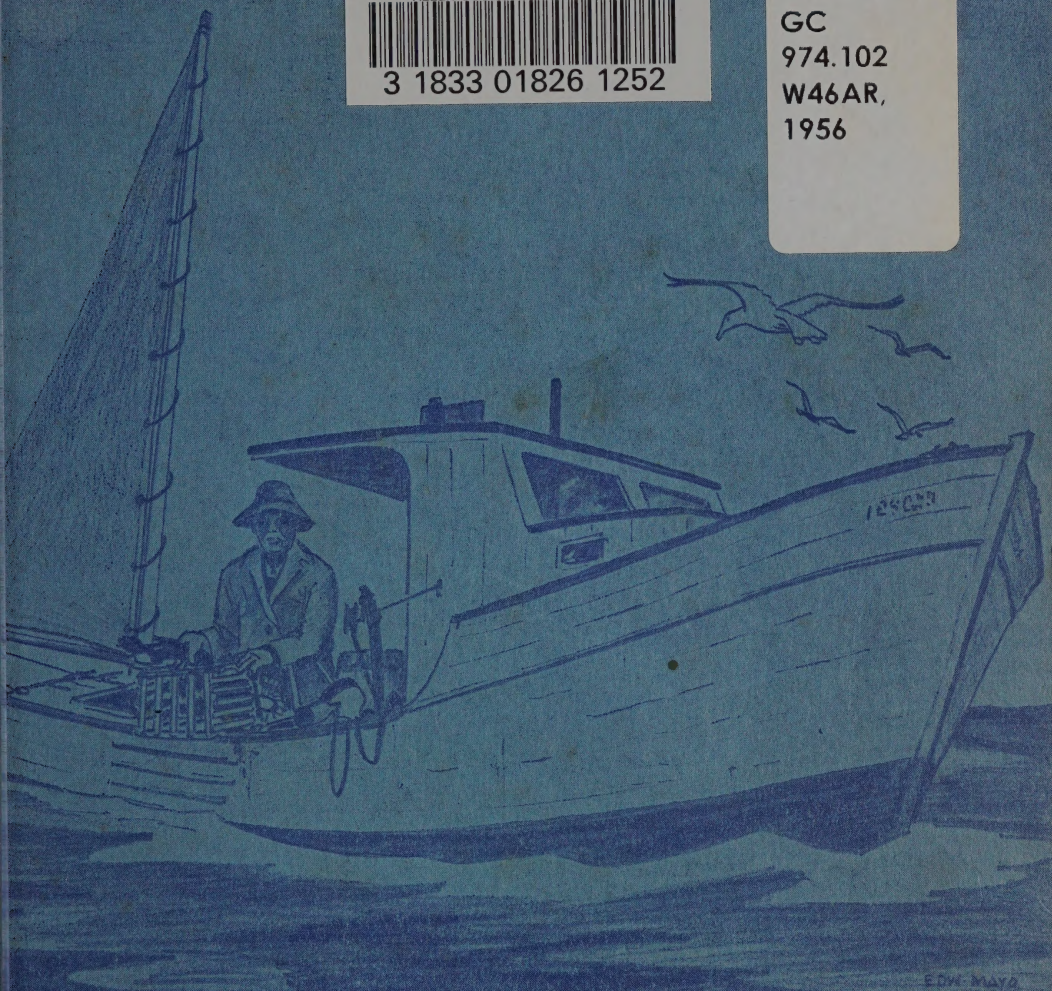
1956 TOWN REPORT

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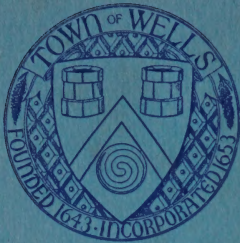
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WELLS MAINE

VACATIONLAND AT ITS BEST



Town Manager
RICHARD J. BOWEN

TOWN OF WELLS
MAINE

March 5, 1957

Fellow Citizens of Wells:

Herewith is submitted for your consideration the report of the activities of Town of Wells government during the 1956 fiscal year.

This report is, in many respects, a biography, for government is people: people who attend and participate in the public meetings which are responsible for setting general town policies; people elected to direct the policies established by their fellow citizens at Town Meeting; employees of the Town performing the daily detailed tasks so necessary to carrying out these policies; and townspeople serving as members of the various boards and committees supervising and planning community projects and future town growth.

The year 1956 has been a year of progress in almost every area of town activity. Road construction and maintenance continued at a fast pace. Newly inaugurated swimming instruction classes for children met with marked success. The newly renovated Town Office was utilized and appears to have been well received by townspeople. These are but a few of the many accomplishments in 1956 which are described in the body of the Annual Report.

Your special attention is called to the report on our "hidden" industry which shows what teamwork can do in revitalizing an important town resource. The list of unpaid taxes as of December 31, 1956 has not been included in the report since it was felt that tardy taxpayers should not be penalized for a situation over which they had no control—namely, tardy tax bills.

The year ahead is not without its problems, some of which are already apparent. Your active interest and participation in the means by which these problems may be solved are the only positive ways by which permanent and sound decisions may be made. Take a firmer interest in Town affairs and you will reap the rewards.

Respectfully submitted,

RICHARD J. BOWEN
Town Manager

P.S. Tear off back cover of report and hang it up near telephone. It might come in handy.

ANNUAL REPORT

TOWN OF WELLS, MAINE

An account of town government operations for the fiscal year beginning
January 1, 1956 and ending December 31, 1956

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CREDITS

Cover Design Edwin Mayo
Photographs Lillian Wood, George Taylor
Civil Defense Drawing, Page 14
Connecticut Development Commission
Compiled and edited by Richard J. Bowen

Printed by Kennebec Journal



1956

Last Year Town Meeting:

- ★ VOTED to raise \$392,395.73 by taxation in 1956.
- ★ REDUCED the Board of Selectmen from seven to five members and provided for three year staggered terms effective March, 1957.
- ★ AUTHORIZED construction of six-room addition to Wells Elementary School and after a subsequent Special Town Meeting authorized bond issue totaling \$83,500.00.
- ★ ADOPTED a resolution affirming the Town's interest in a Wells Harbor Project.
- ★ PASSED an amended Clam Digging Ordinance requiring the payment of a fee for a clam digging license.
- ★ REJECTED a proposed ordinance for the regulation of so-called "pin ball" machines.
- ★ AUTHORIZED the creation of a five-member Planning Board.

Last Year the Board of Selectmen:

- ★ MET more than 25 times during 1956.
- ★ APPOINTED a 5 member Planning Board.
- ★ ADOPTED formal rules of order and procedure in the conduct of their meetings.

- ★ AUTHORIZED the purchase of a new police radio and sale of the old to Wells Corner Hose Company.
- ★ APPOINTED Donald Morse, William Litscher, and Ernest Lord as Special Conservation Officers to assist State Game Warden in control of dogs killing deer.
- ★ PURCHASED new snowplow.
- ★ MET with representatives of the Maine Department of Sea and Shore Fisheries and requested the Department to close all clam flats for an indefinite period as a conservation measure.
- ★ CONTRACTED for the painting of the town hall and replacement of gutters.
- ★ AWARDED the contract for the Wells Branch Fire Co. pumper to Snowden Motor Co. and Blanchard Associates.
- ★ RELOCATED a portion of Old Farms Road (Hilton's Lane).
- ★ FLOATED the \$83,500.00 Elementary School Addition bond issue at an interest rate of $3\frac{3}{4}\%$.
- ★ CALLED 3 special Town Meetings during 1956.
- ★ AUTHORIZED renovation of Town Hall and office space for Wells Police Department.
- ★ APPOINTED Daniel Jenness as Clam Warden.
- ★ FORMULATED a new procedure for the issuance of gun permits by the Board of Selectmen.

IN REVIEW

- ★ **PLANNED** for a public hearing on the 1957 Annual Budget, the first of its kind in the history of the Town of Wells.
- ★ **SUCCESSFULLY** opposed a proposed rate increase for hydrant rentals by the Kennebunk, Kennebunkport, and Wells Water District before the Maine Public Utilities Commission.

Last Year Town Departments Report:

- ★ **CONSTRUCTION** of more than 3 miles of new road.
- ★ **INSTALLATION** of a records system for Wells Police Department.
- ★ **INITIATION** of rodent control program at Town Dump.
- ★ **INNOCULATION** of 910 Wells children with Salk Polio Vaccine.
- ★ **ENROLLMENT** of more than 100 youngsters in Town-Sponsored swimming instruction program with more than 80 completing course.
- ★ **SIXTY-THREE** arrests by Wells Police Department.
- ★ **TWO-HUNDRED ONE** fire calls answered by Wells Beach, Wells Corner, Wells Branch and Highpine Fire Companies.
- ★ **COMPLETION** of new one-acre parking lot at Wells Beach.
- ★ **EIGHT** miles of road tarred in 1956.
- ★ **ERECTION** of street signs throughout Wells and Moody Beach areas.
- ★ **PARTIAL** resurfacing of the High and Elementary school yard.
- ★ **ACCEPTANCE** of new 500 gallon pumper for Wells Branch Fire Association.
- ★ **ANSWERING** of 160 calls by Wells Beach Ambulance.
- ★ **RECOVERY** of 10 stolen motor vehicles by Wells Police Department.
- ★ **CONTINUATION** of Department of Sea and Shore Fisheries clam protection and propagation program.
- ★ **PROPERTY** valuation increase of \$192,028.00.
- ★ **EXCISING** of 2460 motor vehicles.
- ★ **REGISTRATION** of more than 200 voters, making present voting list more than 2500 registered voters in Wells and Ogunquit.
- ★ **SCHOOL** enrollment of 743 children as compared with 727 in 1955.



In Memoriam



EDWARD HOLLAND

1876 - 1956

Selectman 1949-1952, 1954

DAVID P. McCOBB

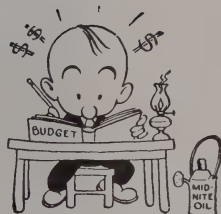
1880 - 1956

Selectman 1949-1954

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

BOARD OF SELECTMEN AND TOWN MANAGER

During the past year, the Board of Selectmen met 25 times in directing the operating policies of the Town of Wells. Their decisions covered and affected a wide range of municipal activities. Among them perhaps the following were most significant and worthy of mention.



Planning Board Appointed

As directed by the 1956 Town Meeting, a five-member Planning Board was appointed. This body, long in need by the Town, met during the year to discuss ways and means by which their work could be most beneficial to the Town. Plans were made for the acquisition of a map of the Town through The State Department of Development of Industry and Commerce. This map would serve as a basis for planning future town physical growth and development. Another project to be undertaken by the Board in the near future is a study of the capital or physical needs of the Town and the financial or fiscal means by which these needs may be met. Such planning will help to fill a gap long in existence in stabilizing the town tax rate and yet mean progress in town services.

Rules of Order and Procedure Adopted

In order to provide a more orderly basis for the conduct of town business at meeting of the Board of Selectmen, formal rules of order and procedure were adopted during the year. Including an invocation, these rules have been of invaluable assistance in giving proper consideration to matters of public policy.

Conservation Measures Taken

As a continuation of the town's policy of seeking to redevelop clamming as an industry, the Board of Selectmen petitioned the Department of Sea and Shore Fisheries to close all flats in the Town for an indefinite period. The Board also appointed a clam warden to protect the set of clams presently growing in the flats. If these seed clams are protected and allowed to reach legal size, there promises to be a potential yield valued at in excess of \$100,000.00.

The Board during the spring at the request of the State Game Warden Service, appointed three special officers to assist the resident warden in protecting deer from attacks by dogs. In some instances, it was found that dog packs were practically liquidating herds of deer, particularly does heavy with fawn.



PLANNING FUTURE GROWTH FOR WELLS

Left to right—George Spiller, Maurice Fenderson, David Craig, Albeo LaPierre and Town Manager, Richard J. Bowen.

Town Hall Repairs Made

With funds having been made available by Town Meeting, long-needed repairs were made to the Town Hall Building. Two coats of outside paint were applied, and new gutters installed. Offices for the Board and Town Manager and for the Police Department were constructed. Railings were erected on the building steps. A new hearth and other minor repairs to the furnace were made. There remain still other repairs but the building certainly is more presentable than it has been for some time.

Hydrant Rental Increase Opposed

In co-operation with officials from Ogunquit, Kennebunk, and Kennebunkport and with the aid of legal counsel, the Board of Selectmen successfully opposed a proposed increase in the cost of hydrant rentals. Although a higher rate was ordered by the Maine Public Utilities Commission, this concerted action of the officials of the municipalities within the water district, meant considerable tax savings. Wells saved some \$2,000.00 on hydrant rental fees.

TAX COLLECTOR

Collection Record Poor in 1956

In almost every other area of town activity a bright and optimistic report on the accomplishments of the past year can be made. However, in so far as tax collections for 1956 are concerned, it can be reported that the Collector had one of the poorest records in many a year. Collections of 1956 taxes during the fiscal year totaled \$217,162.63 out of a total commitment of \$396,558.68 or a percentage record of 55%. The most obvious reason for such a poor showing was the unexplainable late date on which taxes were committed to the Tax Collector by the Board of Assessors for his collection. This circumstance not only meant poor collection but also the town's having to borrow \$240,000.00 in anticipation of 1956 taxes, the largest amount in the town's history. Aside from the disconcerting situation resulting from sending out bills so late in the year, the town has been saddled with larger interest payments on this temporary borrowing.

As of the writing of this report, the record of collections is vastly improved, with 89% of the commitment presently accounted for.

Prior Years Taxes Collected

In order to clear the ground for a general tax-acquired property sale in the near future, a concentrated effort was made during the past year to collect delinquent property taxes on which liens had been placed. The following table illustrates the success with which this program met:

Year	Amount	Collected	Balance
Prior to			
1953	\$2436.91	\$1214.07	\$1222.84
1953	1303.01	634.79	668.22
1954	1633.86	527.05	1106.81
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total	\$5373.78	\$2375.91	\$2997.87

One of the by-products of this campaign was the collection of \$1076.91 in penalty interest and charges.

Tax Sale Planned

Plans are presently being made to hold a general tax sale in the Spring of 1957. This will mean that such property will be added to the tax rolls rather than being a burden to the Town. It is also expected that court action will be instituted for the collection of delinquent poll and personal property taxes.

Delinquent Taxes Unpublished

Because taxpayers were given only two months within which to pay their taxes before being classified as delinquent as compared with five to seven months in previous years, the list of "delinquents" has not been included in this annual report. In the interests of better public relations, it would appear that publication of the list would serve no useful purpose other than to embarrass those who have legitimate reasons for being late.

TOWN CLERK

The past year for the Office of Town Clerk may be best described as a year of change and progress. The Clerk's office is now located on the first floor of the Town Hall in the office formerly occupied by the Board of Selectmen, rather than on the second floor in the makeshift office constructed in the hall itself. This move appears to have met with public approval based upon the many favorable comments heard during the year.



Records Continue as Problem

As a consequence of the purchase of two fireproof file cabinets during the year, many important and irreplaceable town records are now maintained in safe quarters. Revamping the old town safe with new shelves has meant further improvement in the storage of town records. Storage and preservation of town records, however, still remains a critical problem. If funds are made available in 1957, it is planned to microfilm all important records with particular priority given to births, deaths, and marriages. Microfilming would serve the three-fold purpose of safeguarding these vital documents, of reducing the space required for their safe storage, and of making them more accessible for every-day use. The latter would be accomplished through the use of a reader device.

Voting List Grows

With the addition of almost three hundred new names to the voting list in 1956, the problem of maintaining the voting list has also become more acute. Plans are being made at the present time for the establishment of a new and more convenient system for the maintenance of the lists of voters which contain more than 2,500 names.

Births Continue To Exceed Deaths

Births during 1956 again exceeded deaths, continuing the trend since 1951. This could be interpreted as a distinct indication of town growth.

	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956
Births	57	55	71	59	59	60
Deaths	36	43	43	58	32	43

The Town Clerk issued 75 victualers' licenses and 1 bowling alley license during 1956 with the fees totaling \$85.00 being turned back to the Town. 581 dog and kennel licenses were also issued as well as 851 fishing and hunting licenses.

New Law In Effect

A State Law requiring the recording of a business when not listed under the name of the owner and the recording of a partnership is presently in force. Although 14 business names were recorded in 1956, many businesses have not complied with this new law. To avoid difficulties in the future, it is urged that compliance be made with the law.

PROTECTION

MAJOR POLICE ACTIVITY, 1956

Complaints Answered	451
Arrests Made	63
Convictions Obtained	60
Stolen Cars Recovered	11
Value	\$9,200
M. V. Accidents Investigated	120

Marked progress may be noted in the activity of the Wells Police Department and in its establishment as an effective and efficient law enforcement agency.

Thirty-one Juveniles Apprehended

Of the 63 arrests made by Wells Police in 1956, 33 were for motor vehicle violations, while 7 were classified as felonies and were bound over for trial at sessions of the Alfred Superior Court. The remainder were for lesser offenses and include charges for assault and battery, intoxication, and non-support. Thirty-one juveniles were taken into custody for questioning in regard to vandalism and other petty offenses. In all cases involving damage to private property, restitution was made by parents.

Property Damage Noted

In averaging approximately 150 patrol-miles per day, Wells officers checked doors and windows in places of business as well as unoccupied dwellings. Approximately 50 doors and 25 windows were found unlocked. Damage to several unoccupied buildings also was noted. Owners were notified promptly by the department of any marked discrepancy in the condition of their property.

Police Cruiser Well-Equipped

The new Wells Police cruiser can be considered as well-equipped to meet with virtually any emergency. Its equipment in addition to a two-way radio assigned to the Maine State Police frequency includes a first-aid kit, fire extinguisher, fire axe, rope, a ring buoy, and blue flasher dome light.

Department Improvements Earn Dividends

Aside from the department's creditable arrest record, several other accomplishments require mention. The establishment of a police records and reporting system helps to fill a very serious void in the internal administration of the department. Such a system will be of vital aid in answering requests from other agencies as well as to serve as a basis for more effective local law enforcement.

Completion of an office for the Wells Police Department and Civil Defense, located on the second floor of the Town Hall means that for the first time the department has a place in which to "hang its hat." The convenience of this office has already been shown through its use for keeping records, interrogating suspects and prisoners, and police conferences.

Plans for 1957

One of the primary objectives of the Wells Police Department in 1957 will be the establishment of a small police reserve. Such a unit could become an integral part of Civil Defense and would be of invaluable aid in the event of an emergency.

A training program for regular officers is also planned for the coming year. Particular emphasis would be placed on the use and care of firearms, arrest techniques, and rules of evidence.



FIRE ACTIVITY, 1956

Fires	Wells Beach	Wells Corner	Highpine	Wells Branch
House	12	8	3	—
Forest (incl. Grass and Brush)	33	44	11	11
Motor Vehicle	7	7	—	1
Chimney	8	7	2	—
False Alarms	3	2	2	—
All Others	30	10	—	—
	—	—	—	—
Total	93	78	18	12

With the passing of another year, the Town has been fortunate in avoiding any major disastrous fires. Although the Brackett Barn fire and the woods fires on the Coles Hill Road, the Burnt Mill Road, and the Turnpike as well as others will be long remembered, the efficient manner in which the Town's volunteers brought the fires under control leaves us able to make such a boast. The following reports of the volunteer companies in Wells point up the major happenings of the past year.



Highpine Fire Association

In answering 18 calls in 1956, the company laid more than 8,000 feet of hose and pumped some 96,200 gallons of water. One of the most difficult tasks of the members was the establishment of a relay with Wells Branch in pumping some 14 hours and a distance of more than a half mile to assist in bringing the Turnpike woods fire under control.

Various repairs to the fire station building also were made.

Wells Beach Fire Department

The Wells Beach Company answered 22 more calls in 1956 than in 1955. With the employment of two full-time firemen, fire equipment and the fire station were maintained in first-class condition. The chief of the company, Ernest Crowley, once again wishes to thank the officers and members of the Wells Beach Hose Company for their cooperation with him during the past year.

Wells Corner Hose Company

The Wells Corner Hose Company also answered more calls in 1956 than in 1955—78 to 60. At the first of the year a new front end was



NEW WELLS BRANCH PUMPER

put on the Chevrolet tank truck and minor repairs done on the Ford and Diamond-T. A two-way radio purchased from the Town was installed in the Chevrolet.

Equipment has been maintained by the permanent fireman in stand-by readiness and the fire station was painted inside and outside.

Wells Branch Fire Association

One of the highpoints of the past year was the delivery to the Association of a new fire truck. Mounted on a 1956 V-8 Dodge chassis and equipped with a front-end pump, this 500 gallon tank truck is rated as class A equipment by the New England Fire Insurance Rating Association. Housed in the Branch Fire Station, the truck is ready to go to any fire upon call.

Wells Beach Ambulance

In answering 160 calls during 1956, the ambulance completed one of its busiest years on record. Although all ambulance calls are important, perhaps the most noteworthy project of the ambulance and its drivers was the innumerable trips made in transporting the so-called "polio" boys to and from their homes and hospitals. This service was rendered at no cost to the boys and their families. Volunteer contributions from townspeople and friends helped to defray some of the cost.

CIVIL DEFENSE

It would appear that little more could be said about C. D. that has not already been repeated over and over and over again. Despite this, the unfortunate fact still remains that Civil Defense is practically non-existent in the Town of Wells. We are in no position to cope with any disaster, military or natural, of any major consequence and yet, there are few of us who do not recognize the importance of organized action during an emergency.

There is a time for thinking, for talking, and for doing. The time is long past for anything but doing. Civil Defense is **YOUR BUSINESS!!** Won't you volunteer now and make 1957 the year in which we boast of an active, well organized C. D. unit in Wells?? Call or come into the Town Office now!

Citizen Support Is A MUST!

No. 9



"Yes, You! C. D. is Your Business"

HIGHWAYS AND BRIDGES

HIGHWAY FACTS, 1956

New Construction	3 Miles
Roads Tarred	8 Miles
Patch Applied	70 Yards
Culvert Installed	300 Feet
Brush Cut	3 Miles
Roads Mowed	25 Miles
Gravel Applied	3,500 Cu. Yards

During the past year, the Highway Department continued the feverish pace in highway construction begun in 1955. The skill and perseverance of highway personnel permitted a busy construction schedule at low cost. It should be pointed out, however, that all major work was done with State and not Town funds. Utilization of approximately \$15,000.00 in Town Road Improvement Fund monies constructed the following roads:



Ocean Avenue Extension
Hobbs Farm Road
Old Farm's Road (Hilton's Lane)
The Loop Road

In surfacing the following roads or areas, approximately 8 miles in town ways were treated:

Atlantic Avenue	Ocean Avenue Extension
Webhannet Drive	Old Farms Road
Church Street	Collin's Road
Burnt Mill Road	Town Hall Parking Lot
Stephen Eaton Road	Garrett's Lane
Merrill Clarrage Road	

Gravel was applied in quantity to the Bragdon Road, Perry Oliver Road, and the Coles Hill Road. Other roads were graveled to provide more adequate drainage during Spring freshet and thaw.

By agreement with the Kennebunk, Kennebunkport, and Wells Water District, the town repaired the road damaged by the Water Company in the installation of a new water main on Atlantic Ave., Church Street,

and Webhannet Drive during the fall and winter of 1955. The town was reimbursed for this work.

Equipment Replacement Fund Proposed

Highway Department equipment continued to require considerable time and money for maintenance and repair. The HD5G Allis-Chalmers tractor-loader was broken down over the year for approximately four weeks. Most of the down-time occurred during construction season and as a result, put planned work some three weeks behind schedule. This not only meant lost time but some expense as well.

A continued ambitious highway construction and maintenance program clearly demands proper equipment. It does not appear that the present loader will be efficiently usable in the future and should, therefore, be replaced. Consideration should be given by the Town for the establishment of an Equipment Replacement Fund for which a certain amount in public funds would be raised each year—for replacement not operation and maintenance of highway equipment. Properly administered, this fund would spread out the burden of paying for expensive highway vehicles over a period of time.

Winter Of 1956 Costly

The past Winter has been one of the hardest in terms of cost experienced by the Town in some time. With the expenditure of \$20,724.17 in 1956 for winter maintenance, more money was spent for snow removal and ice control than in 1954 and 1955 combined. Some 1500 yards of sand and approximately 150 tons of salt were utilized for ice control.

In order to provide adequate storage space for winter salt, a shed capable of holding in excess of 100 tons of salt was constructed in 1956 by the highway crew. Bulk purchase of salt means greater savings to the Town. A new one-way high-speed plow was also acquired in 1956.

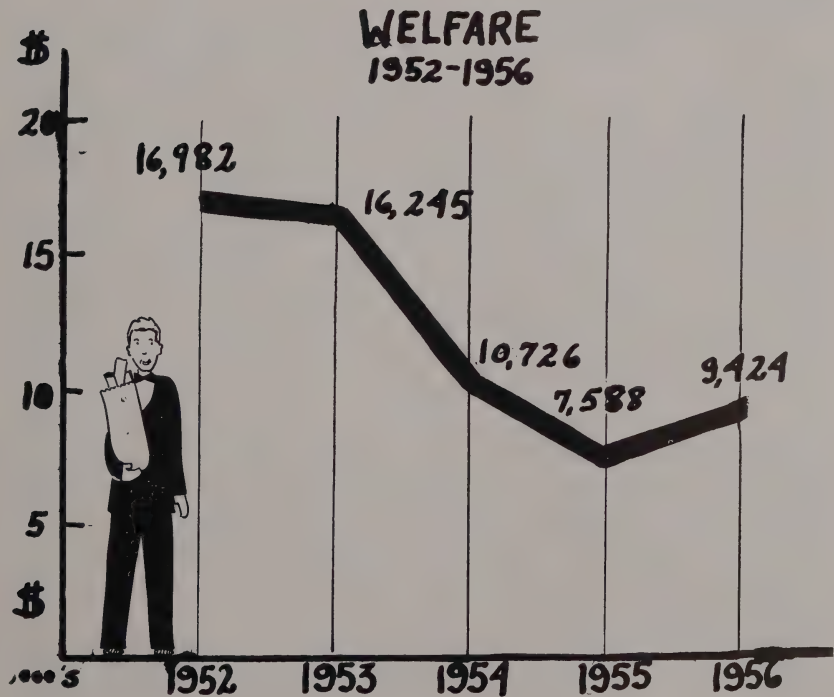
Highway Garage Delayed

Actual construction of a new Highway Department garage was unavoidably delayed during the year. It had been planned to erect the structure immediately south of the present building, on the assumption that this land belonged to the Town. This was found not to be the case and work on the garage has been delayed until a proper site may be found. No additional funds appear to be required for the planned building. It should be made clear, however, that the unavailability of cash during the past year also played a part in the delay.

CHARITIES

Perhaps in no other single area of town activity has the impact of higher living costs been felt more keenly than in welfare during 1956. Although there were slightly fewer cases in 1956 than in 1955—39 to 40—the cost of caring for our less fortunate residents was considerably higher than in 1955. Indoor relief, that is, care for the chronically disabled, the infirm, and the aged, accounted for \$7,304.66 in 1956, more than 70% of the total amount expended. This prevailed in spite of the fact that these cases represented less than half of the total number of welfare recipients. More than \$1,000.00 of this amount was for medical care and hospital services. The town's share of the Aid to Dependent Children program required an additional \$1,013.94. Temporary or outdoor accounted for the relatively small balance.

As in past years, every effort was made to find employment for able-bodied charges as well as to transfer cases to the responsibility of other jurisdictions.



HEALTH AND SANITATION

PUBLIC HEALTH FACTS, 1956				
	1956	1955	1954	1953
Baby Clinics				
(Average Attendance)	20	19	15	6
Immunization Clinics				
(Tetanus, Whooping				
Cough, Diphtheria)	1371	602	412	168
School Physicals	307	286	229	201
Dental Clinics	67	51	44	44

PUBLIC HEALTH NURSE

Growth in the acceptance of the Wells Public Health Nursing Service again highlights a year. Although the number of people requiring nursing care was not as large as in previous years, some 672 home calls were made by the Public Health Nurse. On the other hand, the increases shown in attendance at baby clinics and at inoculation clinics, and the growth in school health work marks 1956 as a most successful and busy year.

Salk Clinics Successful

1956 will be long remembered as the year in which the Salk polio vaccine was used with such widespread success in reducing the crippling effects of polio. The Public Health Nurse and an attending physician administered 910 shots during the year. The Wells High School can boast of 100% participation in this polio vaccination program. Other school children also have received shots.

With the increased availability of the Salk vaccine, plans are presently being made for an adult inoculation program. Age represents no barrier to the devastating effects of poliomyelitis and adults are urged to avail themselves of the opportunity to receive shots either by their family physician or at clinics when they are established.

Surplus Commodities Distributed

A new phase of the nurse's duties during 1956 was responsibility for the distribution of various foods made available to the Town for distribution to State pensioners and aid recipients, Town poor and other needy persons. These surplus commodities, so-called, are distributed to towns by the State Department of Health and Welfare. They include flour, cheese, corn meal, dried milk, butter and canned meats.

Health Fair Planned

A health fair sponsored by the Wells-Ogunquit Health Association will take place on April 17 at the Wells High School. With the theme



"IT DIDN'T HURT A BIT"

of the fair "Know the Health Services Maine Has to Offer You," exhibits from such organizations as the Maine State Police, Lions International will be shown. Blood typing, tests for diabetes, T. B. X-rays will be offered at the fair as well. Plan to attend now !

TOWN DUMP

In an effort to maintain the Town dump in a more sanitary condition, a full-time caretaker was employed during the Summer months. This meant a safer dump as well, in terms of controlling dump fires and prevention of their spreading to the surrounding woods.

Through the employment of an exterminator, a sorely-needed rodent control program was instituted. Using poisoned bait, the exterminator did much to reduce the dump's rat population. It is hoped that funds will be made available in the future for baiting the dump in the Spring and in the Fall. State law, in fact, requires this practice.

BEACH CLEANING

A more positive attempt was made in 1956 than in previous years to maintain the Town's beaches through the employment of three men who worked every other day for a ten-week period. Although this arrangement made some progress in keeping the beaches clean, the absence of adequate equipment with which to work limited the amount of work that could be done. Consideration should be given in the year ahead to the possible acquisition of a small vehicle, perhaps a jeep which, with a trailer attachment, could be utilized with more marked success in beach cleaning.

RECREATION



LEARNING TO SWIM CAN BE FUN

LIFE SAVING

The Town of Wells Life Saving Service completed one of its most successful and noteworthy years in 1956. Not only were there no drownings or accidents of consequence, but a positive step was taken in the direction of the establishment of a sorely needed supervised recreation program.

Under the sponsorship of the Town and with accreditation from the American Red Cross, a swimming instruction program under the supervision of two Town lifeguards, was conducted. Beginning with registration in the Wells Public Schools, more than 100 youngsters indicated a willingness, with parental consent, to attend instruction classes. Actual enrollment at the start of the classes was 91. Classes were held each Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday morning. Red Cross intermediate certificates were issued to 19 swimmers, while 67 received beginners certificates at the end of the eight-week period of instruction.

Plans for 1957 call for an expanded swimming instruction program for an eight-week period designed primarily for the nonswimmer, and a two-week water safety instruction course for the swimmer. It is expected that both of these would be sanctioned by the American Red Cross.

The actual success with which the 1956 program met and the potentialities of an improved program in 1957 could and should pay immeasurable dividends.

PUBLICITY

An addition to the Town's previous advertising media was realized in the past year. This was a second outdoor billboard erected in the Scarborough marshes an exact duplicate of the sign in York. The Town continued to contribute to the Maine Publicity Bureau and to purchase a full-page ad in "Maine Invites You."

Newspaper advertising handled by the Old-Wells-By-The-Sea Improvement Association was carried in the following periodicals:

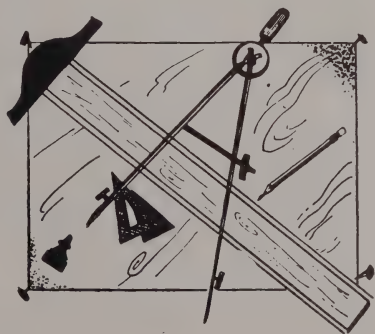
Montreal Star	Toronto Star
New York Times	Boston Globe
Albany Times Union	Hartford Courant

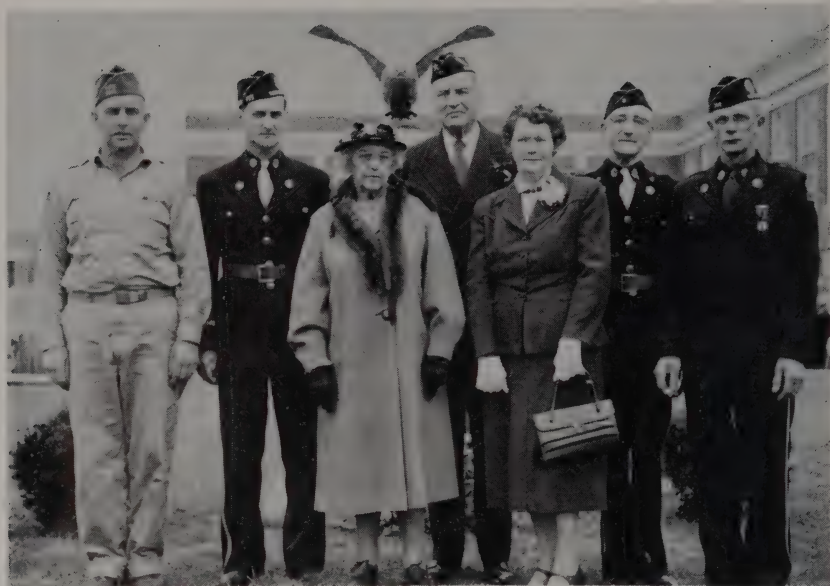
Plans are nearing completion by the Old-Wells-By-The-Sea Association for the preparation and distribution of a new, multi-colored advertising brochure. Due to higher cost of printing this type of folder as compared to the now-exhausted single color booklet, the Town will be asked to help defray the cost. In the past, these booklets have been paid for in their entirety by the Association.

WELLS HARBOR COMMITTEE

Another step towards the realization of a harbor in Wells was taken in 1956. Through the continued efforts of The Wells Harbor Committee, Maine Congressmen, and Town officials, an appropriation of \$5,000.00 by the Congress was earmarked for a detailed engineering survey of the proposed harbor area. Such a survey would provide the detailed data for determination by the Corps of Engineers of the cost of such a project and the extent to which Wells would be required to contribute to the estimated cost.

The possibility of a harbor is still very real and through the active interest and determination of the Wells Harbor Committee, it may become an actual fact.





MEMORIAL DAY

New monuments honoring World War II and Korean War veterans were dedicated and unveiled in ceremonies held following the Memorial Day parade at Wells. The monuments are located on the Wells high school lawn. Pictured above are, left to right, Forrest C. Chase, commander of the Wells Memorial VFW post, a speaker; Albeo G. LaPierre, master of ceremonies and general chairman of the joint planning committee; Mrs. Hobbs Knight, a Gold Star Mother; Major General Frank E. Lowe, Harrison, principal speaker; Mrs. George Fenderson, a Gold Star Mother; William J. O'Connell, member of the dedication committee, who introduced Lowe and D. Joseph Paradis, commander of the Elbridge and Leroy Hanson Post, American Legion, who served as parade marshal. Mrs. Doris M. Bailey, absent when the photo was taken, also a Gold Star Mother, unveiled the monuments.



EDUCATION

- School Building Committee
- Superintendent of Schools
- Wells High School Principal
- Junior High School Principal



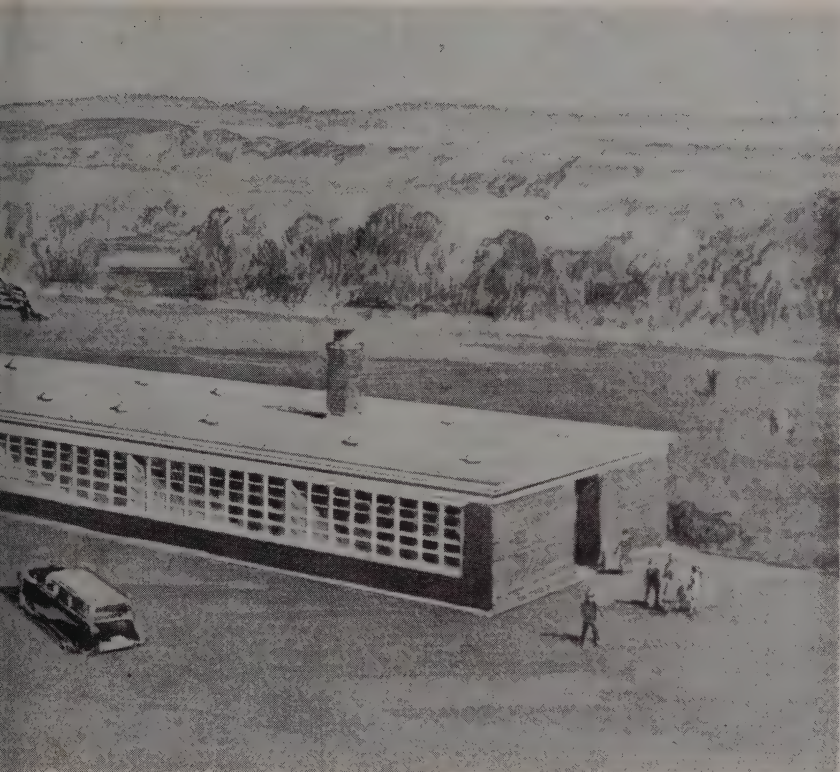
REPORT OF THE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL BUILDING COMMITTEE

February 8, 1957

Your Committee, authorized by vote of the town at the last Annual Meeting, proceeded with the construction of a six-room addition to the Wells Elementary School. The Committee as a group first met on March 21, 1956. Monthly meetings and several special meetings have been held regularly since that time.

Mr. William O. Armitage, of South Portland, was engaged to draw detailed plans and supervise the construction. It seemed proper and expedient to employ Mr. Armitage for this work since he was the engineer who designed and supervised the construction of the original building to which an addition was to be attached.

After much planning and study, on the part of your Committee, plans were completed and the work placed out for bid. Unfortunately, all bids received exceeded the amount of \$75,000 which was available for construction. After further study and construction it was decided to request an additional grant of \$8,500 by means of a special town meeting held on June 20, 1956. Immediately following this date your Committee awarded a general construction contract to Littlefield Brothers, of North Berwick, for the sum of \$78,676.00.



The work has proceeded well in spite of several unavoidable delays and is nearing completion at the present time. Although it was expected to have the building completed in time for occupancy during the December school vacation, it is now known that use of the rooms can definitely be realized by the middle of the present month.

Features of the new annex include a room especially equipped and designed for the preprimary classes, a zoned heating system designed to compensate for the variance of outside temperatures on either side of the building due to the effect of wind and sun, contrasting colors of wall decoration as well as the use of light colored tile flooring which add to the bright appearance of the rooms. Corridor lights are recessed into the ceiling while natural lighting is provided by means of two windows installed in the upper interior wall of each classroom. The foyer will serve as an entrance to both the new addition and the main building. Other features include a built-in incinerator in the furnace room, wind driven ventilators on roof for each toilet room, open book shelves along the exterior walls under the window ledges, combination chalk and tack boards at both ends of each classroom, venetian window blinds and exterior yard lighting for night use.

Respectfully submitted,

ELEANOR ADAMS
ELIZABETH BEALS
WILLIAM BYRNES
FORREST CHASE
HAROLD DAGGETT

ALBEO LaPIERRE
HOWARD LITTLEFIELD
MAXINE MILLER
ROY STEVENS
ARTHUR TUFTS
JAMES S. WENTWORTH, Chairman

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

To the Superintending School Committee and Citizens of Wells:

The annual report of the schools is herewith submitted.

The total opening enrollment at the beginning of the current school year was 743 pupils. This is 17 more than that of a year ago. By buildings the distribution was as follows: High School 167; Junior High 121; Wells Elementary 296; Eldridge Preprimary 45; Ogunquit Elementary 114.

With the completion of the new Wells elementary school addition, about the middle of February, the three classroom units now established in temporary quarters will be suitably accommodated in the new wing. Of these the preprimary classes located at the Legion Hall on Eldridge Road for the past year and a half, will have a permanent location in the new addition in a room especially designed for these beginning children.

Special features of this new room include separate lavatory and toilet facilities, ample storage for special equipment, and low level chalk and tack boards. Also to be installed in this room is a novel arrangement of floor tile which will include the letters of the alphabet and numbers zero through ten. There is also a counter-top work bench and all-purpose sink placed at low level for the use of these five-year-old children. Perhaps one of the most practical features of all is the location of the room which is at the rear of the present all-purpose room stage. Here the preprimary classes have the advantage of being near the center of all school facilities, yet somewhat remote from the remainder of the school as a whole. A separate rear door to this room leads directly to the playground area.

Two other classroom units, namely the fifth and sixth grade combination division, temporarily located in the all-purpose room of the main building, and the sixth grade division, temporarily located in a lower room of the high school annex, will be moved into the new addition. This will leave three additional classrooms for future expansion. Beginning last fall all sixth grade pupils at Ogunquit were conveyed to the Wells elementary school to make for better grade distribution in two divisions rather than three. With the additional classrooms now available in the new building, and provided satisfactory conveyance facilities can be arranged, it may be not only desirable but necessary to continue this plan in future years.

Our Staff

The instructional staff this year includes fewer new members than was the case a year ago. This is an encouraging sign and with an improving salary schedule we can hope to employ and retain well-trained and efficient personnel. The continuance of the art instruction this year with a full time supervisor adds breadth and richness to the overall instructional program. Here children have an opportunity to not only develop native talent but to learn to appreciate artistic beauty under the direction of a trained supervisor. This course is very much enjoyed by the pupils and their progress has been noticeably good. Soon it is hoped to hold an art exhibit to give parents an opportunity to witness the work of the pupils in this area of learning.

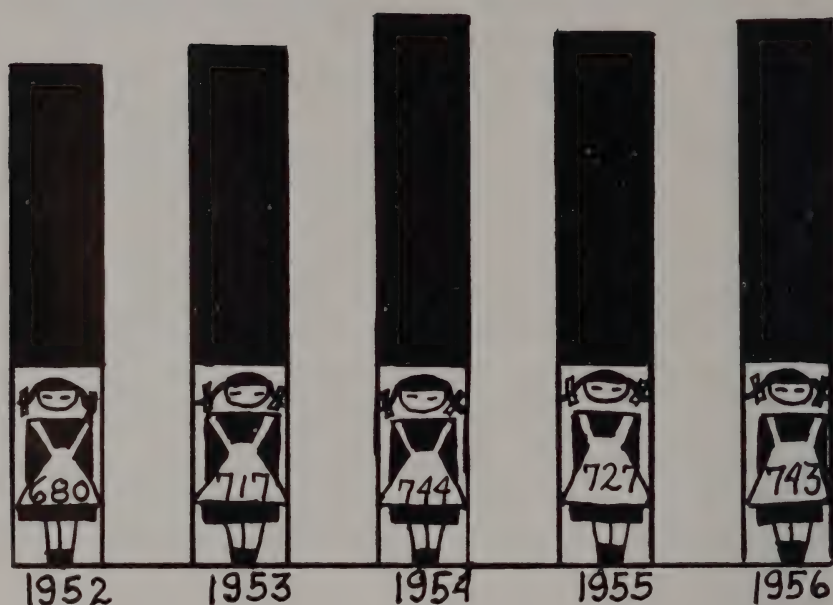
An innovation this year was the introduction of the Rinehart Hand-writing System in all of the elementary grades. This program is administered by the regular classroom teachers under the supervision of a specialist. Each month the teachers in both Wells and North Berwick hold a joint meeting to receive special instruction for carrying on the hand-writing work with the children. The response and cooperation on the part of the teachers has been excellent and the progress of the pupils is becoming very evident with each passing month. It is desirable to continue this unified plan for several years at least until the teachers become so well trained that they may be able to continue the proper method of presentation without special supervision.

The Budget

With steadily rising costs of materials and services and with an increasing school population, the school budget must necessarily increase each year if we desire to maintain our present standards of school accomplishment. Although the costs of utilities, fuel, and general school supplies have increased yearly, the one major increase in school costs is that of teacher salaries. It is evident that in this matter the spiral of increasing wages for teachers has just begun. For a long time the important role of the classroom teacher has not been fully recognized, at least in terms of dollars and cents. This has resulted in a wage scale which fell considerably behind that of specialized labor in industry. As a result, competent young people have gone into other lines of employment where beginning wages are higher and advancement faster than in teaching. Add to this unfortunate situation the effect of rapidly increasing pupil enrollments and we find a critical shortage of college trained teachers at the present time. Only when the law of supply and demand is satisfied will there likely be a leveling off of salaries for any period of time. This problem is not merely a local one, but one of state and national concern. In Maine it is more pronounced, however, because the average salary for

SCHOOL ENROLLMENT

1952 - 1956



teachers in this state is presently about 27% below the United States average.

The current legislative session will be asked to consider many proposed measures pertaining to public education. Two years ago the legislature appropriated the sum of \$25,000 to defray the cost of a statewide survey of Maine's educational program. More particularly this study was to concern itself with all phases of finance with respect to the public school system. This study, now concluded by J. L. Jacobs and Company, of Chicago, Illinois, has resulted in many recommendations which are being presented to the current legislature which may result in new legislation affecting public education as administered at the state level. It is definitely known at this time that a bill will be considered which will upgrade the minimum salary law for teachers \$600 above the present scale. A brief comparison of the present state minimum salary law, the newly proposed state minimum scale and our local scale is shown on following page.

Present State Minimum Salary for Teachers

Less than 3 years of preparation	Three years of preparation	B.A. Degree	M.A. Degree
\$1600 - 1900	\$2000 - 2400	\$2400 - 3200	\$2400 - 3600

Newly Proposed State Minimum Salary for Teachers

\$2200 - 3200	\$2600 - 3600	\$3000 - 4000	\$3200 - 4200
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Present Wells Salary Schedule for Teachers

\$2300 - 3200	\$2400 - 3300	\$2800 - 3800	\$3000 - 4100
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Many Maine communities have adopted, or are considering, a salary schedule considerably above the newly proposed state minimum. For example:

Kennebunk Salary Schedule for Teachers—effective September 1957

Less than 3 years of preparation	Three years of preparation	B.A. Degree	M.A. Degree
\$2800 - 3500	\$2800 - 3500	\$3200 - 4200	\$3400 - 4400

Proposed Kittery Salary Schedule for Teachers

\$2600 - 3500	\$3000 - 3900	\$3400 - 5200	\$3600 - 5400
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Proposed Eliot Salary Schedule for Teachers

\$2800 - 3800	\$3000 - 3400	\$3400 - 4400	\$3600 - 5600
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In consideration of the above comparative figures it seems necessary to again this year upgrade our local schedule to at least the newly proposed state minimum. Our overall school budget for 1957 calls for an appropriation of \$10,446.97 more than that of last year which represents an increase of about 7.7% over last year. On the basis of current data compiled by the office of the Maine Teachers' Association, in Augusta, the average percentage increase in appropriations for schools of all towns statewide is likely to exceed the above figure.

Repairs and Improvement of School Property

Again, during the summer vacation, the full time employed janitors accomplished many improvements which tend to preserve the appearance and usefulness of school property.

In the high school the ceiling and walls of the stairwell on the south end of the building were completely redecorated. Similar renovations were effected in classroom three and the teachers' room. This was in line with a program of redecorating which has been accomplished on a year to year basis. New window shades were installed in all front rooms on the first floor replacing badly worn and stained shades which had been in use since the building was constructed. A new master-pave floor covering was installed in the gymnasium locker room and several breaks in the tile floor covering throughout the building were replaced. This

need was greatest on the landings at both stairway ends of the building where traffic had worn them completely through to the concrete. A new unit heater was installed in the Home Economics room replacing the old one which leaked and was beyond repair. Other repairs were made to the plumbing and heating system.

Perhaps the most important improvement, from the standpoint of facilitating the school lunch program, was the enlargement of the cafeteria kitchen to approximately double its original size. This was accomplished by moving a partition about ten feet and taking unused space from the lower corridor of the south basement. Because of the magnitude of the present school lunch program, it becomes imperative to provide larger facilities for food preparation and dishwashing accommodations.

In addition to the general annual interior cleaning of all walls and floors in the various buildings, floor seal was applied to the gymnasium floor and all floors at the Ogunquit School. Also at Ogunquit a new set of modern window shades were installed in the second grade room and the cafeteria kitchen was repainted. In the Wells elementary building, we installed a new sink in the originally designed kitchen to facilitate the use of the auditorium when food is served at P. T. A. meetings and on other occasions.

By means of a special appropriation, we began a project of laying a permanent type pavement in the drives and parking area at the rear of the High School. After the new building addition is completed, it is planned to carry the yard pavement back to a line parallel with the rear of the new annex.

New Instructional Equipment

During the past year and a half we have acquired several items of new equipment which enhance our instructional work. Among these items should be mentioned three new typewriters in exchange for older models; a new large, 72" x 72", projection screen; a new R. C. A. tape recorder; new chairs and two new electric sewing machines for the Home Economics room. Several items of industrial shop equipment have been purchased as required by the State Department of Education in a program of expansion from woodworking to a general shop program which must include several areas. These items include sheet metal tools, namely squaring shears, fanning rolls, bar folder, a manville and one combination machine. It should be noted here that the shop classes, under the supervision of the instructor, have constructed tables and benches for mounting the above machinery. We now are well-equipped in wood, machine, foundry, and sheet metal work. In due time we need to provide equipment for instruction in auto mechanics, strap iron and elec-

trical work. This is in line with a state approved program for general industrial shop work.

New equipment needed as soon as possible include a new liquid duplicator, for use of the teachers in preparing class instructional material, as well as a new electric floor machine for maintenance of the tile floors in the elementary school. Also we should provide more lockers for pupil use in physical education and commercial-type dishwashing equipment for the high school cafeteria kitchen.

Conclusion

With the combined efforts of a teaching staff, which cooperate well and works faithfully and diligently from day to day to improve the opportunities for pupil growth and development, we are making progress. At least twelve of our regular classroom teachers have availed themselves of advanced study during the past two years, which is an indication of professional advancement. By the use of yearly standardized pupil tests we attempt to measure our teaching achievement. It is pleasing to note here that we have a well-balanced corps of teachers who give unstintingly of their time and energy to be of help to the pupils. A word of commendation is appropriate here for parents and all the residents of Wells who not only provide the schools, but also have cooperated well in assisting us to carry on the important work.

In closing please allow me to thank the members of the Superintending School Committee and the entire school staff for their help and co-operation in the administration of our school work.

Respectfully submitted,

MELVILLE H. JOHNSON,

Superintendent of Schools

REPORT OF HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL

To the Superintendent of Schools, the Superintending School Committee and the Citizens of Wells:

One of the highlights of our school year was Open House at the High School during our observance of National Education Week. It was a richly rewarding experience to have more than half of the High School parents attend the same classes that their children do during the school day. Many pertinent questions were asked by the parents and excellent rapport was established with the faculty members at this meeting. The amount of homework for students was one of the important questions raised and our answer was that if we are to successfully prepare your child for further education, at least two hours of study daily, in addition to classwork, is recommended.

This year there were two changes in the High School faculty. Mr. James Beaudry of Portland is our new coach of basketball and baseball and teacher of boys' physical education and social studies. Mr. James Rouvalis of Gloucester, Massachusetts, is our biology and general science teacher. Both of these teachers are graduates of the University of Maine.

Evening school this year was very successful. There was an individual enrollment of 162 persons with total class enrollments of 227 students. The program consisted of the following subjects: bookkeeping, shorthand, antique stenciling, ceramics, furniture repairing, wood-working, oil painting, typewriting, sewing, upholstering and driver training. This last course was so much in demand that we had to limit enrollment to twenty students. We plan to offer driver training again next year. Many skills were acquired and thousands of dollars worth of articles produced gave evidence of the caliber of work at this year's evening school. An exhibition of some of the attractive products of evening school terminated the fall program.

Our cafeteria facilities accommodate 375 children, served in three shifts of approximately 125 in each group. Mrs. Marion Stansfield and her assistants, Mrs. Jennie Sinclair and Miss Marie Hatch, have maintained the operation of the cafeteria at such a high level of efficiency that we continue to serve nearly 300 children daily without any town subsidy. In addition, we provide over twenty free lunches daily. We follow the standardized procedures of menus and servings established by the Maine State Department of Education School Lunch Program. This fall our kitchen was enlarged to almost double its former size. Until this was done, we held the dubious distinction of having the smallest kitchen in proportion to the number served of any school lunch program in Maine. We hope that more facilities and equipment will be added this coming year. Our greatest immediate need is for a commercial-type dishwasher.

Please remember that we invite your questions concerning any phase of the high school program and only by coming to see us can your wishes be made known.

If your child has a school problem, his teacher and principal deem it a pleasure to assist the parent in its solution. The combined efforts of teacher and parent working together provide for a more satisfactory understanding of the child's particular educational needs.

I wish to express my appreciation to the school committee, superintendent and high school faculty for the fine cooperation they have extended to me throughout the school year.

Respectfully submitted,

NORMAN F. HOLDER,

Principal

REPORT OF JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL

To the Superintendent of Schools, the Superintending School Committee,
and the Citizens of the Town of Wells:

Two significant changes have been made this past year in the Junior High School program. First, it is composed exclusively of the 7th and 8th grades, the 6th grade being affiliated with the Elementary School. Second, the Junior High School is functioning on a departmental basis. It is hoped that this change may be of benefit in more adequately preparing the pupils academically and socially for the Senior High School.

The four teachers have had specialized preparation in their particular subjects. Mrs. Elmira Doyen teaches English; Mrs. Vera Wheaton teaches Mathematics; Mr. William Ramsden specializes in Science; and Mr. Carroll Beals is the Social Studies teacher. Each teacher handles his or her major subject in the forenoon, and teaches the balance of the curriculum to the home-room group in the afternoon session.

In addition to the fine work done by our Art and Music Supervisors, Mrs. Ellen Prescott and Miss Dorothy Burgoyne, our program has been expanded to include an intensive course in Penmanship, under the direction of Miss Margaret O'Connor.

Physical Education for girls is conducted by Mr. George Langille, and a similar program for the boys is conducted by Mr. James Beaudry, both of the High School faculty. The girls' basketball team, coached by Mr. Langille, has had a successful season.

An operetta, "The Pirates of Penzance," will be presented in the near future, under the direction of Miss Burgoyne.

The library is composed of three hundred to four hundred volumes and this and the audio-visual facilities are being increased as steadily as is practicable.

It is gratifying to note that American Education Week was observed by visits of parents and friends in increasing numbers. We welcome their interest and visits at all times.

May I express my appreciation for the fine cooperation of the Junior High School faculty, the High School Principal, the Superintendent, and the Superintending School Committee.

Respectfully submitted,

CARROLL P. BEALS,
Principal

OUR "HIDDEN" INDUSTRY



Many Maine coastal communities are beginning to realize they have "hidden" industries, Sea and Shore Fisheries Director of Research Robert L. Dow said today. And some, with the help of State and Federal Marine Scientists, are taking steps to develop them to their full potential.

"Anyone can see that a town with a factory filled with high-priced machinery has an industry," Dow explained. "It's not so obvious, however, that a community lucky enough to be fringed with lonely acres of marsh and mud flats may also have an industry with a dollars-and-cents value equal to that of the impressive factory."

Mud flats, of course, are a natural resource, Dow pointed out. Just as a barren hillside may conceal invaluable mineral deposits, so these unglamorous acres of mud often hide shellfish crops worth thousands of dollars to those who harvest them. Most important of these crops in Maine is the soft-shelled clam.

Wells Lucky

A leading example of a town with what Dow calls a hidden industry is Wells—a York County summer resort famous for its miles of sandy beaches. Fortunate to have over 100 acres of potentially productive flats, Wells is also lucky to have town officials who are wise enough to appreciate their value.

"We depend pretty much on our summer tourist business," Town Manager Richard J. Bowen says. "Wells has only a few businesses to carry its citizens through the long winter months, and a prosperous clam industry can mean a livelihood to many of our families."

With this in mind, town officials and citizens have been quick to take advantage of a clam management program being conducted by the Department of Sea and Shore Fisheries with the cooperation of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

The Wells experiment has been going on for nearly nine years now—the first continuous shellfish management program of a diversified nature to be attempted in Maine.

By 1948 the need for such a program had become obvious. The once-productive flats of the Webhannet River system had become nearly



ONE STEP IN PROTECTING OUR RESOURCES

barren of clams. A reconnaissance by Sea and Shore Fisheries Shellfish Specialist Dana E. Wallace and other members of the Department's Research Division disclosed that the existing clam population, sparse though it was, had made an excellent growth.

But the lack of any commercial supply, this survey indicated, was caused by the complete failure of reproduction survival for the preceding five years or so.

Extensive Research

Since the program first got underway, one of the primary goals has been to correct this absence of small clams. Experimental plantings of seed clams have been made. Experimental and commercial scale clam farm areas have been set up. Efforts were made to deflect the current in some of the creek beds by placing sod dams and baffles in sections of the main channel. At the same time, extensive biological, geological and hydrographic data were collected. And, following recommendations by the Department, Wells residents voted to close certain areas as conservation measures.

During the first five years of the program, some of these experiments paid off. Between 1948 and 1952 commercial production of clams from managed areas showed a gradual improvement, yielding an estimated \$15,000 or more to the diggers.

Crammed with Crabs

But the greatest single obstacle to improved production, marine scientists were finding, was the clam-hungry green crab. For some years there were excellent sets of seed clams on the flats. Before these could mature to commercial size, ravenous armies of green crabs methodically combed the flats, devouring tender young clams by the millions.

The first green crab counts were made at Wells in 1949. These preliminary observations disclosed that the marsh banks flanking the flats were infested with these predators. Tunneling into the marsh sod, sometimes more than 20 feet, the crabs had created an underground city in which they could live snugly through the winter months.

Investigating these burrows, research personnel found colonies of between 5 and 20 crabs beneath a single forkful of sod. Close to 300 of the creatures were found in December of the following year under one chunk of sod which had fallen onto the flats.

Experiments showed the destruction caused by the green crabs. Plots of young clams were fenced in with wire mesh. And while the protected clams survived and grew rapidly, others outside the fence vanished, until all that remained on the open flats were the pits and pock marks left by the foraging crabs.

Campaign Launched

Citizens of Wells, Sea and Shore Fisheries and U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service personnel joined forces in a campaign against the green crabs. Anti-crab fences were installed across some of the creek systems, and a local man, Melvin Campbell, was hired to fish green crab traps periodically, to get estimates of green crab abundance and measure the effectiveness of control measures. Positive steps have been taken this year to eliminate the crabs—steps which on a test basis have been most successful.

Summing up the current campaign, Shellfish Specialist Wallace said, "There are indications that the green crab population may be declining in this area. If this is the case, it will be good news indeed for the people of Wells."

One indication that the situation may be improving is that excellent sets of clams from both 1955 and 1956 are now on the flats. In some areas there are as many as 150 young clams about one and one-quarter inches in size in a single square foot of marine sediments.

A \$200,000 Crop

Convinced of the value of this set, town officials asked the Sea and Shore Fisheries Department to call a public meeting last November to

see about closing all of the town's flats to diggers until these clams have had a chance to reach commercial size.

Unanimously those attending the meeting voted in favor of the general closure. As Town Manager Bowen said, "This crop could mean from \$100,000 to \$200,000 to the community."

Cooperative Measures

As in the past, Sea and Shore Fisheries marine scientists will work closely with the town on this management program. "We'll conduct periodic surveys," Wallace explained. "When we find areas where there are large percentages of commercial size clams, we'll recommend that these particular flats be opened to diggers for a specified length of time."

Responsibility for enforcement of the closure will be shared by the town, who recently appointed Daniel Jenness as local clam warden, and Sea and Shore Fisheries coastal wardens.

Will enforcement be a problem? Town Manager Bowen doesn't think so. "Once the diggers understand that this program will pay off in the long run, I'm sure they'll go along with it one hundred per cent," Town Manager Bowen said.

The salary of the local clam warden and other expenses of the management program borne by the town of Wells are paid for by revenue received from the sale of diggers' licenses. All resident and nonresident diggers on the Wells flats are now required to have licenses.

Surveying the management program at Wells to date, Wallace said, "We have here a dramatic example of what can be done when local citizens, State and Federal personnel all work together."

Such a program, he pointed out, cannot work without the active participation of the community directly concerned. "After all, it's their resource," Wallace said. "If they are interested in improving it and if they can see the value of management today in order to reap a much bigger harvest tomorrow, then the many problems can be solved. But the Department has no intention of forcing such a program on a town which doesn't want it."

Sea and Shore Fisheries role is strictly cooperative in applying research findings to local problems, Wallace concluded. It's only interest is to help coastal towns realize the greatest possible economic benefit from their resources.

As the experiment at Wells demonstrates, such efforts to bring towns' "hidden" industries out into the light of day can indeed be worthwhile.

—Reprinted from "The Maine Coast Fisherman"
Prepared by Maine Dept. of Sea & Shore Fisheries

FINANCES

State of Maine

STATE DEPARTMENT OF AUDIT

Augusta

February 18, 1957

Mr. Richard J. Bowen
Town Manager
Wells, Maine

Dear Mr. Bowen:

This letter confirms your conversation with Mr. C. Newell Dyke of this department relative to the report of audit of the financial records of the Town of Wells covering the 1956 fiscal year.

We are indeed sorry not to be able to accommodate by having the work finished so that excerpts from the audit report might be printed in your annual report for 1956. While this information is desirable, nevertheless, the Legislature recognized the extreme difficulty of fulfilling an exacting schedule and enacted a law which only requires the printing of excerpts from the last audit report. (Chapter 91, Section 83, Revised Statutes of 1954.)

We hope you readily appreciate our position in the matter and will understand that the pressure of town business at this time of the year does not permit prompt completion of all audits for municipalities which request them.

If you desire you may print this letter in the annual report so that the taxpayers of Wells will understand the reason for the delay.

Very truly yours,

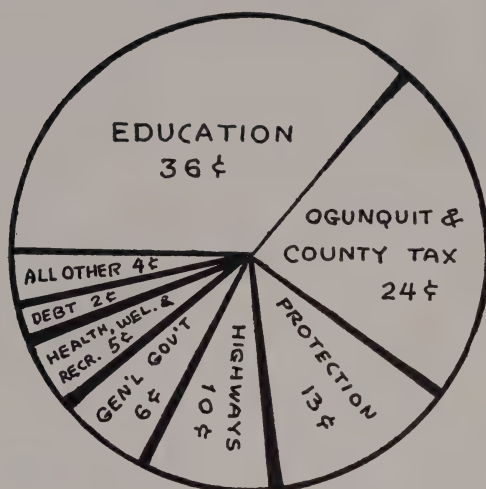
MICHAEL A. NAPOLITANO

State Auditor

MAN:lf

YOUR TAX DOLLAR

IN



1956

ASSESSMENT OF TAXES

VALUATION OF THE TOWN 1956

Real Estate, Wells Resident	\$ 2,854,078.00
Ogunquit Resident	2,923,395.00
Real Estate Wells Nonresident	3,116,980.00
Ogunquit Nonresident	1,830,540.00
Personal Estate Wells Resident	116,100.00
Ogunquit Resident	143,580.00
Personal Estate Wells Nonresident	131,200.00
Ogunquit Nonresident	126,175.00
Total Valuation	\$11,242,048.00
Rate \$35.00 per \$1,000.00	\$ 393,471.68
Total Polls 1027 @ \$3.00	3,081.00
	<hr/>
	\$ 396,552.68

COMPUTATION OF ASSESSMENT

Appropriations	\$ 381,835.73
County Tax	10,560.00
Overlay	4,156.95
	<hr/>
	\$ 396,552.68

TREASURER'S REPORT

RECEIPTS

BALANCE—January 1, 1956	\$ 33,946.80
Tax acquired property	153.13
1952 Taxes	64.76
1953 Taxes	16.38
1954 Taxes	84.00
1955 Taxes	21,839.62
1956 Taxes	\$216,451.28
Discount	1,859.60
	<hr/>
	214,591.68
1943 Tax Lien	5.72
1949 Tax Lien	9.78
1950 Tax Lien	8.86
1951 Tax Lien	542.72
1952 Tax Lien	486.18
1953 Tax Lien	634.79
1954 Tax Lien	527.05
1955 Tax Lien	918.64
Error 1955 Tax Lien	1.00
1956 Wells Excise Tax	11,978.72
1956 Ogunquit Excise Tax	6,502.72
1957 Wells Excise Tax	1,911.57
1957 Ogunquit Excise Tax	1,537.20
Collection Charge	55.00
Interest	1,080.73
Costs	431.71
School Construction Temporary Loan	58,200.00
Bond Issue	84,298.33
School Construction Account	23,190.96
Anticipation Notes	290,000.00
School Maintenance	30,537.53
School Repairs	78.79
Wells Teachers Club Dues	26.00
M.S.R. (dues Maine Teachers' Association)	5,301.39
M.S.R.S. (Group Insurance)	462.15
Washington National Insurance	821.38
Withholding Tax	19,655.97

Social Security	1,273.31
Insurance	93.60
Town Hall Building (rent)	1,008.26
Police	599.28
Wells Beach Hose Company	97.60
Wells Corner Hose Company	1.40
Licenses	
Victualer	82.00
Clam	381.50
Itinerant Vendor	6.00
	<hr/>
	469.50
Equipment Rental	701.30
Town Poor	9.66
State Poor	2,511.39
Winter Maintenance	3,946.60
Summer Maintenance	1,830.77
Tar	2,220.00
Road Crew	47.25
State Aid Construction	15,705.83
Hilton's Lane	3,503.21
Equipment and Building Maintenance	286.41
Wells Beach Toilets	157.24
Public Nurse Supplies	.35
Town Clerk	2.50
Dividends	66.00
Bank Stock Tax	380.83
Telephone and Railroad Tax	255.97
Fire Fighting, Forestry and Shade Trees	792.79
Insurance	19.13
Town Garage	24.00
Street Lights	36.00
	<hr/>
	\$845,941.44

EXPENDITURES

Warrants #1-52 inclusive	\$747,595.26
	<hr/>
CASH BALANCE forward 1/1/57	\$ 98,346.18

BAYLEY TRUST FUND

Community Trust Company (Ogunquit Branch)	
Bank Book Number 5074 (Jan. 1, 1956)	\$481.54
Dividends received from Investments	14.00

\$495.54

Disbursements

Norman Holder, Principal, for Scholarship 1956	10.00
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10.00

Balance December 31, 1956 as evidenced by Community Trust Company Bank Book #5074	\$485.54
Assets in kind in custody of Town Treasurer	
14 shares, Brown Company, Common as evidenced by Certificate No. VTC/B	
3 shares, Brown Company, \$5.00 Cumulative Convertible First Preference Stock as evidenced by Certificate No. P5/B910	

TOWN GARAGE ACCOUNT

Kennebunk Savings Bank, Kennebunk, Maine	
Bank Book No. 24,193, January 1, 1956	\$5,025.00
Interest credited to Bank Book No. 24,193	151.88

Balance December 31, 1956 as evidenced by Kennebunk Savings Bank Book No. 24,193	\$5,176.88
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ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION

12/14/56 Community Trust Company, Bond Issue	\$84,298.33
Treasurer State of Maine	1,200.00
Balance on Temporary Loan	1,789.42

Total Receipts	\$87,287.75
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Disbursements

Warrant #50	\$57,222.58
Special Warrant #1	410.37
#2	8,744.50

Total Disbursements	66,377.45
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Balance forward December 31, 1956 as evidenced by Check Book	\$20,910.30
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TOWN BONDED DEBT

DECEMBER 31, 1956

Purpose	Date	Rate	Maturity	Amount
Refunding	1922	5%	\$ 500.00 Annually	\$ 1,000.00
High School	1935	3.25%	\$ 2,000.00 Annually to 1959 and \$1,500.00 in 1960	\$ 7,500.00
Elementary				
School	1951	2%	\$12,000.00 Annually 1955 to 1957 and \$13,000.00, 1958 to 1962	\$ 77,000.00
Elementary				
Addition	1956	3.75%	\$ 5,000.00 Annually 1957 to 1960; \$10,000.00 Annually 1961 to 1965; \$13,500.00 in 1966	\$ 83,500.00
				<hr/> \$169,000.00

Debt Statement

Legal Debt Limit

7½ % X town valuation of \$11,242,048.00	\$843,153.60
Outstanding Debt	169,000.00

Available for Borrowing	<hr/> \$674,152.40
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Town of Wells

STATEMENT OF
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION
BOND ISSUE

DECEMBER 31, 1956

PROCEEDS FROM BOND ISSUE 3¾ %	\$83,500.00
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OTHER RECEIPTS:

State of Maine for School Plans	\$ 1,200.00
Accrued Interest and Bond Premium	798.33

TOTAL RECEIPTS	\$85,498.33
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EXPENDITURES:

Press Herald, Evening Express—Advertising	26.88
Biddeford Daily Journal—Advertising	15.75
Portsmouth Herald—Advertising	40.00
Wm. O. Armitage—Architect Fee	2,950.20
Farnsworth Agency—Fire Ins.	306.15
Littlefield Bros.—Payment #1	16,479.90
Littlefield Bros.—Payment #2	4,358.70
Littlefield Bros.—Payment #3	9,720.00
Mass. Gas & Elec. Supply Co.	1,000.00
Littlefield Bros.—Payment #4	20,313.00
Comm. Trust Co.—Int. Temp. Notes	222.58
Nat'l Bank of Comm.—Cost, Bond Issue	410.37
C. E. Brown	527.00
Hall, Knight Hardware	1,850.00
Littlefield Bros.—Payment #5	6,367.50

TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$64,588.03
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BALANCE ON DEPOSIT, COMMUNITY TRUST CO., DECEMBER 31, 1956	\$20,910.30
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BOND ISSUE

SCHOOL BONDS 3¾ %	\$83,500.00
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Dated October 1, 1956	
Numbered 1 - 84 inclusive	
Payable each year	
October 1, 1957 to October 1, 1960	\$ 5,000.00
October 1, 1961 to October 1, 1965	10,000.00
October 1, 1966	13,500.00

Interest payable semi-annually, April 1 and October 1.

RJB/r

TOWN OF WELLS STATEMENT OF DEPARTMENTAL OPERATIONS

Year Ended December 31, 1956

	Appropriations	Cash Receipts and Credits	Total Available	Cash Disbursements and Other Charges	Balances Over-drafts	Balances Lapsed Un-expended	Balances Forward
GENERAL GOVERNMENT							
Administration	\$ 14,926.00	\$ 1,282.32	\$ 16,208.32	\$ 14,706.24	\$	\$ 1,502.08	\$
Board of Assessors	4,190.00	—	4,190.00	3,963.87		226.13	
Town Clerk	1,740.00	2.50	1,742.50	1,716.97		25.53	
Officials Salaries	1,607.00	—	1,607.00	1,606.00		1.00	
	\$ 22,463.00	\$ 1,284.82	\$ 23,747.82	\$ 21,993.08	\$ —	\$ 1,754.74	\$ —
TOWN HALL BUILDING PROTECTION							
Police	\$ 1,691.63	\$ 1,097.52	\$ 2,789.15	\$ 2,360.03	\$ —	\$ 429.12	\$ —
Hydrants	\$ 8,460.00	\$ 604.28	\$ 9,064.28	\$ 9,127.86	\$ 63.58	\$	\$ 3,456.44
Fire Fighting	10,477.00	30	10,477.30	7,020.86		62.70	
Highpine Fire Assn.	791.39	1,415.40	2,206.79	2,144.09			
Wells Beach Fire Dept.	1,550.00	20.67	1,570.67	1,475.46			95.21
Wells Corner Hose Co.	8,099.00	221.81	8,320.81	8,319.04		1.77	
Street and Traffic Lights	5,835.40	1.40	5,836.80	5,748.41			88.39
Civil Defense	5,876.00	36.00	5,912.00	5,841.31		70.69	
New Fire Truck	167.80	82.20	250.00	159.53		90.47	
	8,500.00	—	8,500.00	8,372.25		127.75	
	\$ 49,756.59	\$ 2,382.06	\$ 52,138.65	\$ 48,208.81	\$ 63.58	\$ 353.38	\$ 3,640.04

HEALTH AND SANITATION

Public Health Nurse	\$ 4,354.00	.35	\$ 4,354.35	\$ 4,280.54	\$	73.81	\$
Health Officer	50.00	—	50.00	26.95		23.05	
Street Cleaning	500.00	—	500.00	354.80		145.20	
Beach Cleaning	1,000.00	—	1,000.00	704.55		295.45	
Dump	1,410.00	—	1,410.00	1,405.00		5.00	
	\$ 7,314.00	.35	\$ 7,314.35	\$ 6,771.84	\$ —	\$ 542.51	\$ —

HIGHWAYS AND BRIDGES

Regular Crew Salaries	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 6,049.45	\$ 12,049.45	\$ 8,512.45	\$	\$ 3,537.00	\$
Summer Maintenance	5,000.00	5,937.00	10,937.00	8,967.01		1,969.99	
Winter Maintenance	—	20,949.82	20,949.82	20,724.17		225.65	
Tar	6,500.00	5,832.25	12,332.25	12,334.25	2.00		5,500.00
Equip. and Bldg. Maint.	4,700.00	7,631.49	12,331.49	6,831.49			
Town Road Imp. Fund	—	15,704.71	15,704.71	15,704.71			
State Aid Const. Fund	3,464.00	3,402.96	6,866.96	119.30			6,747.66
Sidewalks	2,722.76	277.24	3,000.00	850.00			2,150.00
Seawall Const.	3,720.92	3,029.08	6,750.00	1,518.98			5,231.02
Parking Lot—Wells Beach	7,000.00	—	7,000.00	6,120.22			879.78
Cable, Huck. and Sass. Sts.	500.00	—	500.00	—		50.00	500.00
Drakes Island Ditches	—	350.00	350.00	300.00			
Street Naming Comm.	—	350.00	350.00	350.00			
Wells Breakwater	—	1,527.42	1,527.42	1,520.75		6.67	
	\$ 39,607.68	\$ 71,041.42	\$110,649.10	\$ 83,853.33	\$ 2.00	\$ 5,789.31	\$21,008.46
	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 6,431.05	\$ 12,431.05	\$ 11,845.31	\$ —	\$ 585.74	\$ —

CHARITIES

EDUCATION

School Maintenance	\$135,509.00	\$ 39,811.25	\$175,320.25	\$172,621.39	\$	\$	\$ 2,698.86
Repairs and Contingencies	3,796.64	302.15	4,098.79	3,641.47			457.32
Teachers' Sal. Sched.	2,235.00	—	2,235.00	2,235.00			
Football Uniforms	793.00	—	793.00	793.00			
School Yard Resurf.	—	5,500.00	5,500.00	4,000.00			1,500.00
School Physicals	150.00	—	150.00	150.00			
	\$142,483.64	\$ 45,613.40	\$188,097.04	\$183,440.86	\$ —	\$ —	\$ 4,656.18

RECREATION

Wells and Moody Com. Sta.	\$ 957.00	\$ 157.24	\$ 1,114.24	\$ 959.05	\$	\$ 155.19	\$
Athletic Field	—	2,444.91	2,444.91	915.81			1,529.10
Lifesaving	2,145.00	—	2,145.00	2,096.50		48.50	
	\$ 3,102.00	\$ 2,602.15	\$ 5,704.15	\$ 3,971.36	\$ —	\$ 203.69	\$ 1,529.10

MUNICIPAL INDEBTEDNESS									
SPECIAL ASSESSMENTS									
County Tax	\$ 8,871.09	\$ 9,170.96	\$ 18,042.05	\$ 17,168.47	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$ 873.58
Ogunquit Village Corp.	\$ 10,560.00	\$ —	\$ 10,560.00	\$ 10,560.00	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
	82,669.81	1,732.00	84,401.81	84,401.81					
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS									
Town Garage	\$ 93,229.81	\$ 1,732.00	\$ 94,961.81	\$ 94,961.81	\$ —	\$ —	\$ —	\$ —	\$ —
Police Cruiser	\$ —	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00	\$ —	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$ 5,000.00
Town Hall Repairs	1,800.00	—	1,800.00	1,765.25				34.75	
	2,500.00	5,000.00	7,500.00	5,161.93					2,338.07
UNCLASSIFIED									
General Interest	\$ 4,300.00	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 14,300.00	\$ 6,927.18	\$ —	\$ —	\$ 34.75	\$ 7,338.07	
Overlay	\$ —	\$ 1,076.91	\$ 1,076.91	\$ —	\$	\$	\$ 1,076.91	\$	
Clam Protection	—	4,156.95	4,156.95	—			4,156.95		196.00
Publicity	2,745.00	381.50	381.50	185.50					
Memorial Day	200.00	—	2,745.00	2,755.07		10.07			
W. W. I Monument	300.00	—	300.00	279.75			20.25		
W. W. II Monument	—	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00					
Shade Trees	—	810.07	810.07	695.00			115.07		21.30
Wells Harbor Comm.	—	25.11	25.11	3.81					
Insurance	5,431.29	19.13	5,450.42	6,093.99		643.57			
Buffams Hill Cemetery	—	960.00	960.00	—					960.00
Ocean View Cemetery	400.00	—	400.00	400.00					
Abatements	2,000.00	—	2,000.00	1,485.15			514.85		
Discounts	2,500.00	—	2,500.00	1,859.60			640.40		
Supplemental Taxes	—	35.80	35.80	—			35.80		
Me. Teachers' Assoc.	—	293.00	293.00	293.00					
Wells Teachers' Club	—	26.00	26.00	26.00					
Excise Taxes	—	21,832.39	21,832.39	21,832.39					
GRAND TOTALS									
	\$ 13,576.29	\$ 30,616.86	\$ 44,193.15	\$ 37,109.26	\$ 653.64	\$ 6,560.23	\$ 1,177.30		
	\$392,395.73	\$181,972.59	\$574,368.32	\$518,611.34	\$719.22	\$16,253.47	\$40,222.73		

RJB/r

OCEAN VIEW CEMETERY

RECEIPTS

February 1, 1956 - January 31, 1957

Balance on Community Trust Co., Jan. 31, 1956	\$ 2,185.74
Town of Wells, Maine, appropriation	400.00
Dividends and Interest from Trust Funds	196.50
Annual Care	153.68
Perpetual Care	700.00
Sale of Lots	200.00
Interest from Auburn, Me. Savings Bank	4.50
Wells-Ogunquit Farm Bureau	5.00
	<hr/>
	\$3,845.42

EXPENDITURES

Reginald C. Jones, Supt. and Caretaker	\$ 1,000.00
Repairs to Mowers	1.47
Treasurer's Bond	5.00
Ocean Nat'l Bank, Safe Deposit Box	4.40
Kennebunk, Kennebunkport and Wells Water District	13.26
Supplies for Supt.	100.00
Investment in Bonds	1,713.80
Treasurer's Record Book	2.81
Balance on deposit at Community Trust Co.	1,004.68
	<hr/>
	\$ 3,845.42

ASSETS

Bonds	\$14,025.00
Preferred Stocks	4,232.58
Savings Accounts	659.88
Cash reserved for Investment from Perpetual Care and Sale of Lots	900.00
40 Acre Wood Lot, Branch Road	80.00
15 Acre Wood Lot, East side Tear Coat Road	30.00
	<hr/>
	\$19,927.46

OCEAN VIEW CEMETERY, INC.

by WALTER E. HATCH,

President

Directory of TOWN OFFICIALS 1956-1957

ELECTIVE OFFICIALS

(Terms Expire March 9, 1957)

Board of Selectmen

Robert L. Littlefield*
Eugene R. Brown
Raymond W. Colby
Milbray M. Freeman
Ernest B. Lord
Clifford Y. Moody
Samuel B. Stansfield

Board of Assessors

George C. Lord*
Harry S. Littlefield
Lawrence V. Fernald

Town Clerk

Grace E. Wormwood

Town Treasurer

Walter E. Hatch

Superintending School Committee

Maxine W. Miller* (Term Expires, 1957)
Forrest C. Chase (Term Expires, 1958)
Roy C. Stevens (Term Expires, 1959)

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICIALS

Town Manager

Richard J. Bowen

Superintendent of Schools

Melville H. Johnson

Chief of Police

Richard J. Bowen

Town Attorney

Barnett I. Shur

Health Officer

Joseph Matyoska, D.O.

Road Foreman

George F. Fenderson

Fire Chiefs

Paul Bridges (Wells Corner)
Philip P. Hatch (Highpine)
Ernest Crowley (Wells Beach)
George Brackett (Wells Branch)

Public Health Nurse

Ruby L. Lord (Resigned)
Maxine W. Miller (Acting)

Clam Warden

Daniel W. Jenness

Planning Board

Harrison W. Roberts

David W. Craig*
Albeo LaPierre

George Spiller
Maurice Fenderson

* Indicates Chairman

THE SCHOOL CALENDAR

First Period	Begins	Monday, September 3, 1956
	Ends	Friday, December 21, 1956
Second Period	Begins	Wednesday, January 2, 1957
	Ends	Friday, February 15, 1957
Third Period	Begins	Monday, February 25, 1957
	Ends	Friday, April 12, 1957
Fourth Period	Begins	Monday, April 22, 1957
	Ends	Friday, June 7, 1957

School Holidays: Labor Day, September 3; State Teachers' Convention, October 4-5; Veterans' Day, November 11; Thanksgiving Day recess, November 22-23; County Teachers' Convention, May 6; Memorial Day, May 30.

DIRECTORY OF MOST USED TOWN SERVICES

POLICE

Wells 162-W
Idlewood 9-0922

FIRE

Wells Beach 477
Wells Corner 219M-3
or 477
Highpine 30W-1

AMBULANCE

Wells Beach Fire Dept. 477

Service	Office	Tel. No.
Administration, General	Town Manager	162-W
Accounts Receivable	" "	"
Auto Registration	" "	"
Civil Defense	" "	"
Planning	" "	"
Public Assistance	" "	"
Tax Collection	Tax Collector	"
Zoning	Building Inspector	"
Accounts Payable	Town Treasurer	163
Liens	" "	"
Birth Certificates	Town Clerk	786-W
Death Certificates	" "	"
Dog Licenses	" "	"
Elections	" "	"
Hunting and Fishing	" "	"
Marriage Certificates	" "	"
Voter Registration	" "	"
Street Maintenance	Highway Foreman	36M-1
Snowplowing and Sanding	" "	"
Assessments	Board of Assessors	219WK-3
Dog Warden	Police Dept.	162-W
Education	Supt. of Schools	858
Health	Joseph Matyoska, D.O.	225
Nursing, Public Health	Public Health Nurse	786-R
Ogunquit Village Corp.	Corp. Manager	3-W

Town Office

Wells, Maine

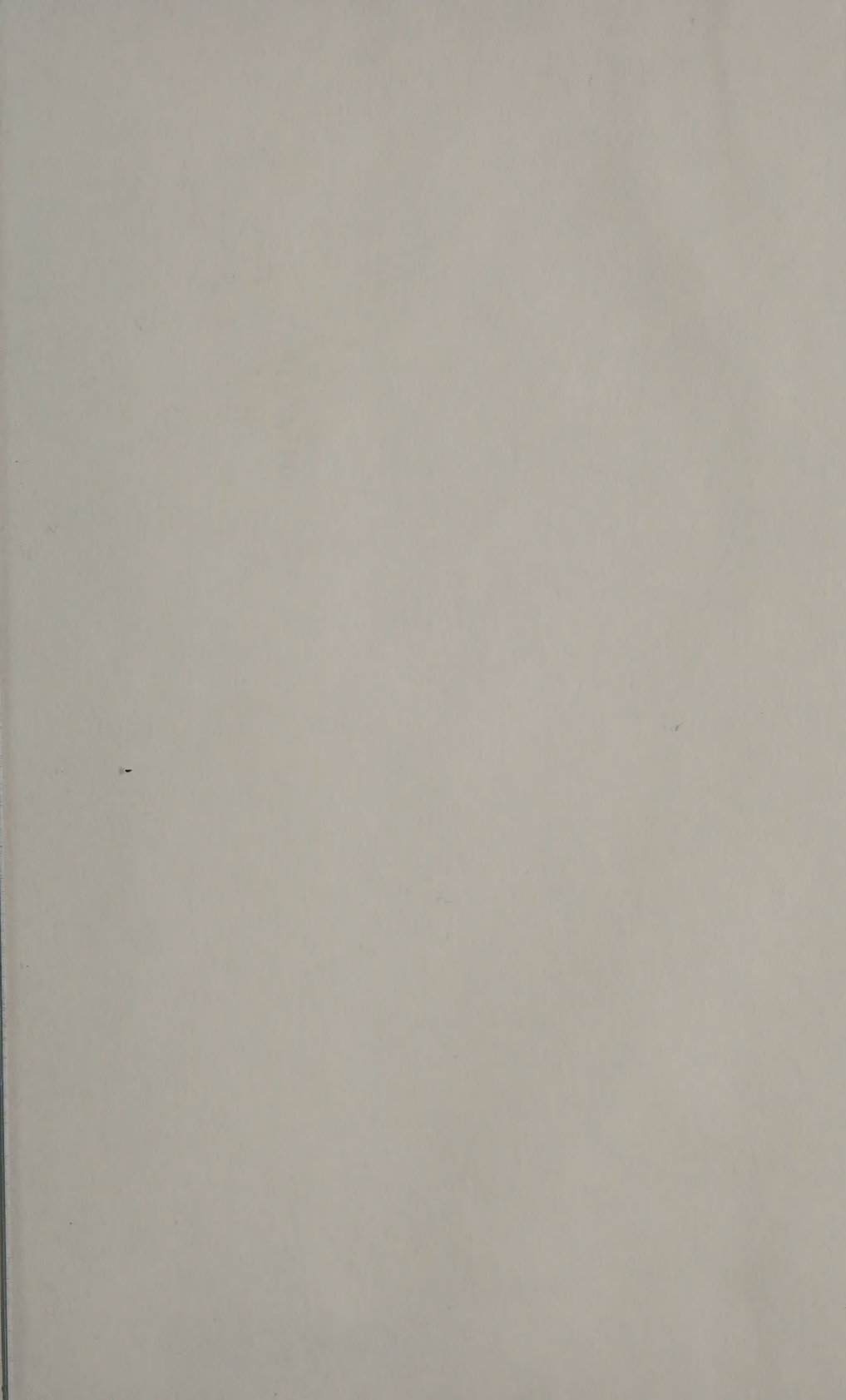
Sec. 562, P. L. & R.
U. S. POSTAGE

PAID

Wells, Maine
Permit No. 3

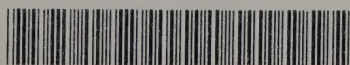
BOX HOLDER

RFD-2
WELLS, MAINE



7/21/2008

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HF GROUP - IN

